

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EUR-25 NIC-01

OPR-02 CU-04 PC-15 DRC-01 /193 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3643

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AR, CI

SUBJ: ARGENTINE REACTION TO COUP IN CHILE

1. SUMMARY. ARGENTINE REACTION TO COUP IN CHILE AND ALLEGED US INVOLVEMENT CONTINUES. HOPEFULLY THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF SUNDAY SHOULD DRAW ATTENTION MORE TO THE LOCAL SCENE AND AWAY FROM THE GOLPE. END SUMMARY.

2. YET ANOTHER LARGE RALLY WAS HELD ON THE NIGHT OF SEPT 18 TO PROTEST EVENTS IN CHILE. THIS ONE TOOK THE FORM OF A "PEOPLE'S FUNERAL" FOR ALLENDE AND HAD LABOR LEADER AGUSTIN TOSCO, OSCAR ALENDE OF THE INTRANSIGENTE PARTY, CHILEAN LABOR LEADER GUILLERMO CABRERA, AS THE MAIN SPEAKERS. CROWD ESTIMATES RANGED UP TO 45,000. ALENDE SET THE TONE OF THE RALLY IN STATING THAT IF ARGENTINA IS SUCCESSFUL IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST YANKEE IMPERIALISM, "WE ARE GOING TO CROSS THE CORDILLERA, THE PUNA, THE PARAGUAY AND THE RIO DE LA PLATA TO FREE THE PEOPLE GOVERNED BY THE IMPERIALISTS". TOSCO PREDICTABLY ATTACKED RUCCI AND SAID THAT

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SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE IS IMPLEMENTED NOT BY 15 MINUE STRIKES

BUT BY CONCRETE ACTS SUCH AS DONATING A DAY'S WAGES AS THE CORDOBA WORKERS HAD DONE.

3. GEN PRATS GAVE A BRIEF INTERVIEW IN BUENOS AIRES. HE EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR ARGENTINE HOSPITALITY BUT REFUSED TO SAY ANYTHING ON THE SITUATION IN CHILE.

4. INTERESTINGLY, PRO-PERONIST NEWSPAPER, MAYORIA, CARRIED A HEADLINE ON SEP 19 WHICH READ "SEARCH FOR EXTREMISTS IN SANTIAGO". PRESUMABLY THESE "EXTREMISTS" ARE THE SAME PERSONS WHO WERE REFERRED TO AS "LEFTIST WORKERS IN RESISTANCE" A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER, AND AS "CHILEAN PATRIOTS" IN OTHER PAPERS. THIS IS NOT TOO SURPRISING, HOWEVER SINCE MAYORIA REPRESENTS THE NATIONALIST, AS OPPOSED TO LEFTIST, WING OF THE PERONIST MOVEMENT. MAYORIA ALSO GAVE THE LOWEST CROWD ESTIMATE (12,000) FOR THE ALLENDE FUNERAL DEMONSTRATION.

5. THE PERONIST YOUTH WILL HOLD ONE LAST MASS MEETING TONIGHT SEP 19 TO CLOSE OUT PERON'S CAMPAIGN. A VIDEOTAPE OF PERON'S LAST SPEECH OF THE CAMPAIGN IS SCHEDULED TO BE RUN.

6. COMMENT. WHILE TONIGHT'S YOUTH RALLY WILL PROBABLY HAVE SOME ANTI-US SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN REACTION TO EVENTS IN CHILE AND TO OUR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT, THE ELECTION ON SUNDAY SHOULD DIVERT MOST ATTENTION AWAY FROM CHILE AND TO ARGENTINE POLITICS, AT LEAST FOR A TIME.
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